



# ETHNOLOGY

WITHOUT

# BORDES

THE GLOBAL OR LOCAL CHALLENGES IN  
AND BEYOND THE FIELD

25TH-27TH OF NOVEMBER 2021  
CHARLES UNIVERSITY, PRAGUE  
CZECH REPUBLIC



## CALL FOR PAPERS

The IX edition of Ethnology Without Borders, an international academic conference, is being organized this year by the student association ANTRE in cooperation with the Department of Ethnology at the Charles University in Prague.

FB event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/217593473708447>

WEB site:

<http://www.ethnologywithoutborders.eu/>

You can find the newest information on FB event discussion.

We continue the mission established during previous installments, which is to: expand and strengthen relations between different anthropological centers in Central and Eastern Europe; be a platform through which knowledge, thoughts and experiences of young scholars can be exchanged.

The topic of the IX edition of Ethnology Without Borders is “The Global or Local? ”: Challenges In and Beyond the Field. In the past months, we have witnessed more than ever how interconnected our world is – how quickly global phenomena can spread and impact social, political, cultural and economic relations in local contexts, everyday life, customs and traditions.

These events have triggered multi-faceted local reactions to crises and conflicts, and have sparked change and various new ways of adaptation often based in tradition and solidarity. The ‘global’ can thus be understood as ‚worldwide‘, but also as ‚transcending national boundaries‘, ‚holistic‘ or as „supraterritorial“. We are interested in discussing how the macro and micro perspectives can be combined to understand the ‚global-local-relationship‘ e.g. as in manifestations of global processes in local contexts, but also in how local issues can affect broader contexts.

As suggested by the title of this years’ conference, we would also like to focus the discussions on ethnographic research itself, and to examine difficulties that we face in our research of crisis and emergency situations (such as COVID-19).

# SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

Arrival

20:00 Social evening (optional) -Jazz Restaurant Zlatý Dvur - [Husova 242](#)

## FRIDAY 26TH NOVEMBER - lecture room P300 ([Nám. Jana Palacha 2](#))

10:00 - 10:30 Registration

10:35 - 10:50 Official opening

10:50 - 12:35 Conference Block I. Tanzania: religion, civil society, ethnicity

12:35 - 13:35 Lunch break

13:35 - 14:45 Conference Block II. To live an anthropology. The way of research

14:45 - 15:00 Coffee break

15:00 - 16:45 Block III. Anthropology, society and environment

16:45 - 17:00 Coffee break

17:00 - 18:20 Block IV. Per differentiae ad astra

18:20 - 20:00 Dinner (not provided by the organizers)

20:00 - 24:00 Film screening with comment of experts - [cellar in Campus Hybernská](#)

## SATURDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

10:30-11:40 Block V. Tourism as an object and way of research - [Campus Hybernská](#)

11:40 - 12:45 Lunch break

12:45 - 14:00 Moderated discussion/MessUp afternoon - professors sharing stories of research obstacles and mistakes - [Campus Hybernská](#)

14:00 - 14:15 Coffee break

14:15 - 15:15 Block VI. Cultural Heritage - [Campus Hybernská](#)

17:30 - 19:00 Guided tour in the Czech ethnographic museum by [doc. Petr Janecek](#)

20:00 - 24:00 Social evening with dinner (not provided by the organizers)

## SUNDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

Free day in Prague ([the most beautiful city in the world](#))

# CONTENTS

BLOCK I.

6

BLOCK II.

9

BLOCK III.

12

BLOCK IV.

15

BLOCK V.

18

BLOCK VI.

20

## BLOCK I. 10:50 - 12:35 (Friday) TANZANIA: RELIGION, CIVIL SOCIETY, ETHNICITY

**Kerindo Abeid Sumara:** The Response of Indian Community to the Contemporary Politics in Tanzania

10:50 - 11:10 Presentation

11:10 - 11:25 Discussion

**Stephano L. Ayo:** Child Labour or Child Work? Complexities of Socio-Cultural Life of the Wataturu Community of Igunga, Tanzania circa 1980s to Present

11:25 - 11:45 Presentation

11:45 - 12:00 Discussion

**Hija A. Urassa:** Global Islamic Reforms and their Influence on the Ethnographic Research among the Chagga Muslims of Hai District in North Eastern Tanzania

12:00 - 12:20 Presentation

12:20 - 12:35 Discussion

## The Response of Indian Community to the Contemporary Politics in Tanzania

**Kerindo Abeid Sumara**

PhD candidate, Department of Ethnology and Non-European Studies  
Faculty of Arts, University of St Cyril and Methodius in Trnava

Tanzania has a noticeable number of Indian minorities from the Indian sub-continent amongst its population. Some of those Tanzanian Indians live in Mwanza City. Their presence in the country and the city is historic. However, political changes in the country greatly shaped the migration and settlement of the Indian community in the city. Scholarship regarding Indians' response to policy reforms, particularly during socialism and early liberalization period is enormous. Yet, little has been done to link the current trends and dynamics of Tanzanian politics and Indian minorities to the wider scope of migration and settlement. This study therefore seeks to establish the impact of contemporary Tanzanian politics on the Indian community living in Mwanza City, Tanzania. The study uses interviews, published reports, internet sources, newspapers, and government reports to demonstrate how various political reforms have affected the Indian presence in Mwanza. The paper is built on the argument that Tanzanian politics have influenced the Indian migration to and from the country.

## Child Labour or Child Work? Complexities of Socio-Cultural Life of the Wataturu Community of Igunga, Tanzania circa 1980s to Present

**Stephano L. Ayo**

PhD candidate, Department of Ethnology and Non-European Studies  
Faculty of Arts, University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava

For a longtime the world has campaigned against child labour. Local and global efforts have been made to alleviate this phenomenon. Despite those efforts, specific socio-cultural context and societal interpretation of child labour has left the campaign against those practices in question. Scholarship on this subject uncovers several circumstances, reasons, consequences and processes for child labour among different communities in Africa. Yet, the extant literature reveal scant information regarding the complexities of socio-cultural dimension, particularly among the semi nomadic pastoral Wataturu in realising child labour practices. On the basis of such backdrop, the paper exploits primary sources collected through participant observation, oral interviews and secondary sources to demonstrate how sociocultural set up of the Tatur exhibit the complexities of the defining child labour practices.

**A Tanzanian PhD Candidate at the University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava. PhD research: Modernisation and socio-cultural transformation among semi-nomadic Taturu (Datoga) people of Tanzania. Affiliated to the University of Dar es Salaam as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of History, Political Science, and Development Studies at the Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE).**

**Areas of research: Ethno-Histories in Tanzania (Ethnology and Historical Research); Socio-Cultural and Political Histories of Tanzania; Environmental Histories; and Peasant Economies and Rural Transformation.**

## Global Islamic Reforms and their Influence on the Ethnographic Research among the Chagga Muslims of Hai Distrit in North Eastern Tanzania

Hija A. Urassa  
PhD candidate, Department of Ethnology and Non-European Studies  
Faculty of Arts University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava

The spread of contemporary Islamic ideological reforms which coupled with radicalism, Muslims-states antagonism and terrorist attacks resulted in the creation of images and labeling of Muslim as radical and anti- peace. These images as publicized in the political platforms, viewed through economic lens and media propaganda have affected the way in which Muslims negotiate their religious beliefs particularly in the local context. Consequently, this has shaped the way a social researcher study Muslim practices and local community participation in research. On the basis of that setting, this paper intends to demonstrate how the construction of Islamic reforms challenges research among the Muslim reformers of the Hai District in Tanzania. The study uses information collected from ethnographic research conducted in the year 2020 and 2021 in Hai District. It also exploits other sources such as in depth interviews, observation, books and journal articles. The paper is built on the argument that, Islamic reforms is both an opportunity and challenge which demand researchers to contextualize trends, adopt various data collection methods and resorts to frameworks viable for addressing the relationship between global and local interaction of Islamic ideological reforms.

A PhD candidate at the University of Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Slovakia. My PhD research is on Islamic Ideological Reforms and Practices among the Chagga Muslims of North Eastern Tanzania, 1980-2000s.

Assistant Lecturer in the Department of History, Political Science and Development Studies at the Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE), Tanzania

Areas of research: History of Disease, Health and Healing, Ethnology and History of Islamic Religion in Tanzania and History of Infants and Childhood.

## BLOCK II. 13:35 - 14:45 (Friday) TO LIVE AN ATNROPOLOGY. THE WAY OF RESEARCH

**Jakub H. Vozáb:** Video games and Folklore: Is it okay to study your hobby? The Insider perspective on global phenomenon

13:35 - 13:55 Presentation

13:55 - 14:10 Discussion

**Hubert Tubacki:** Activist anthropology as a new perspective on participatory observation and an alternative for young researchers

14:10 - 14:30 Presentation

14:30 - 14:45 Discussion

## Video games and Folklore: Is it okay to study your hobby? The Insider perspective on global phenomenon

Jakub Hynek Vozáb  
Student, Department of Ethnology  
Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague

Video games today represent very widespread medium, which has a huge potential. Majority of games uses for its stories and building of their world rearranged and commodified elements inspired by vernacular folklore. Thanks to that kind of games, they were able to preserve and spread some manifestations of oral tradition, mainly representation of oral literature, specifically the representatives of demonological legends, not only in collective memory of certain group, but also in the general population thanks to the mass culture of popular culture.

I was always fascinated by games so when I started playing video games it immediately became my number one hobby. So, one day when I played particularly big roleplaying video game, I realized what knowledge I had gained from the game world only during the time of playing as a player and how much some stories I find familiar. At that moment, the question arose as to whether other players could take a similar feeling from the game. That is, with the help of storytelling, we do not learn stories in a similar way as if we were sitting by a fire in the woods, in a cafe with friends, or at a lecture at a university. And how much the familiarity of the expressions, motives and stories affects the player's experience of the game and how it supports its better memorization and absorption. And so, my work on my thesis began. Main aim was to examine and explore the possibilities of preserving the manifestations of oral literature in the collective memory of the sub-culture of computer game players with an overlap to the general population, but in the end it was always about how game affect its players, in this case, me.

## Activist anthropology as a new perspective on participatory observation and an alternative for young researchers

Hubert Tubacki  
PhD candidate, Faculty of Anthropology and Cultural Studies  
Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan

While studying anthropology in Poland, I saw a lot of students who are fascinated by anthropology and are looking for their own way of doing anthropology and at the same time looking for their own way of life. The young generation of students, they are constantly negotiating their position and role in society. The next generation seems to be more and more socially engaged, and they are trying to find their way as citizens in society. Young researchers are searching for their way, sometimes putting the ethics of their research before their own well-being and freedom to work, at the same time they are getting acquainted with the reality of the neoliberal university, where the researcher is seen through the prism of credits and grants. According to the system, a young researcher is expected to be accountable and productive. In this reality, more and more anthropology students feel the need to get more involved in the field. I, too, find myself in this group and have therefore taken it upon myself to practice my interpretation of activist anthropology, which I recognize as a new take on participant observation. In my talk I would like to present my practice as an activist researcher while researching climate movements active in Poland, Czech Republic and Germany. It is my response to the dilemmas of young anthropology students, which may become one of the paths they can take.

**Anthropologist and social activist, PhD student at the Institute of Anthropology and Ethnology at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. I am interested in new social movements, resistance, produced radical other and employed experiences. I work in non-governmental organization, I support and activate young people from small towns and I try to build civil society.**

## BLOCK III. 15:00 - 16:45 (Friday) ANTROPOLOGY, SOCIETY AND ENVIROMENT

**Urszula Małecka:** The need for social forestry

15:00 - 15:20 Presentation

15:20 - 15:35 Discussion

**Mikołaj Smykowski:** Phytoanthropology

15:35 - 15:55 Presentation

15:55 - 16:10 Discussion

**Patryk Switała:** Greenland in a plastic bag

16:10 - 16:30 Presentation

16:30 - 16:45 Discussion

## The need for social forestry

**Urszula Małecka**

**Student, Faculty of Anthropology and Cultural Studies**

**Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan**

82% of forests in Poland are public. They are 'looked after' by employees of the State Forests institution. And although the principle of sustainable development has been introduced into Polish forestry since 1997, and forest management has become multifunctional, Polish foresters cut down forests without asking permission from anyone. Decision making on forest flora and fauna is top-down, centralised and, in addition, represents the main political thought in the country, as employees of the State Forests are subordinate to the Ministry of the Environment. In my talk, I will tell about the need to build social forestry in Poland (and the world), that is, based on democratic decision-making. In 2020 and 2021 I researched the Model Forest project in Oborniki Wielkopolskie, which was an attempt at democratic forest management on local grounds. It was an attempt to socialise environmental management, but the model of public participation it adopted was exclusionary to the local community. An institutional governance framework, both national and global, was imposed on the Model Forest. There was a crossing of scales here (Konczal 2015). The project became an empty structure, devoid of knowledge about the real problems of the local forest and all those who make it up. Projects such as this will not succeed without changes in state structures that will always constrain them. But they are nevertheless needed, as they are a seed of change and show that it is possible to look differently at the old, well known, but no longer fully valid, management schemes. We need „making things common“, as one of my research partners said, taking steps towards social forestry. And yet we also need utopian thinking - inventing other worlds, more democratic, shared, equal. Because as the Italian anarchist Erric Malatesta said - „Everything depends on what people are capable of wanting.“

**Urszula Małecka, master student of anthropology at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. I'm interested in analyzing the relations of human and non-human actors so my bachelor thesis I wrote in the field of anthropology of forest. Now I continue my research especially focused on the social forestry and activist movements working for the forests.**

## Phytoanthropology

Dr Mikołaj Smykowski

Institute of Anthropology and Ethnology

Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland *Efac it nonsin sentrobse fecient iusque perbiti*

The ongoing anthropogenic pressure on natural ecosystems that led the scientists to coin the term 'Anthropocene' shift the academic attention from natural resources as instruments of human adaptation to the environment to more ecologically sustainable ways of our cultural practices. In this paper I propose to rethink existing modes of anthropological considerations in environmentally-oriented contexts. The main problem of the presentation will be to point out that arts of noticing (Tsing 2015) and attentiveness (van Dooren, Kirksey, Munster 2016) postulated by multispecies ethnographers may be a part of our everyday life in more-than-human world. Most of all, I will focus on my own phytoanthropological observations concerning loss of biodiversity, especially in urban landscapes of Poznan and its surroundings, and the spontaneous inevitable growth of vegetation that reclaims the spaces of everyday human activities. I claim, that it is the role of phytoanthropology as a new emerging subdiscipline (opposed to ethnobotany), to recognize and problematize the biological reactions of flora to our cultural impact on ecosystems.

**Mikołaj Smykowski is an assistant professor at the Institute of Anthropology and Ethnology, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. He is a graduate of the international doctoral seminar Global Education Outreach Program at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews POLIN. In 2020, his PhD thesis titled "Ecologies of the Shoah" was awarded first prize by the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, Poland. Member of the transdisciplinary academic group working within the subdisciplin called environmental history of the Holocaust, presented in the special issue of "Journal of Genocide Research" (2020/2). His teaching and research interests focus on ecological humanities, multispecies ethnography and phytoanthropology.**

## Greenland in a plastic bag

Patryk Switała

Silesian traveler, cultural anthropologist, folk dancer

Author of travel blog *Slonzok rajzuje / Silesian travels*

When I was sailing to Ittoqqortoormiit, one of the most inaccessible locations in the world, in 2017, I expected to see the nature in its pure form and the traditionally living Inuit people. Meanwhile, I found quad bikes and ubiquitous plastic rubbish. In my presentation, I would like to speak about the impact of globalization on everyday life in East Greenland and the role of anthropology in protecting it from the influx of rubbish from Europe and continental North America.

## BLOCK IV. 17:00 - 18:20 (Friday) PER DIFFERENTIATIAS AD ASTRA

**Trime Halili:** East-west dichotomy

17:00 - 17:20 Presentation

17:20 - 17:40 Discussion

**Rolly Rosen:** Between the global Intercultural City Ideal and the local Reality of the New Wars

17:40 - 18:00 Presentation

18:00 - 18:20 Discussion



## East-west dichotomy

Trime Halili  
PhD candidate, Department of History and Ethnology  
University of Debrecen in Hungary

The proposed research intends to explore and understand the reinvention of culture through community making, specifically in the process of creation and way of functioning of autonomous temporal groups and intentional communities through socio-cultural spaces, constituting a network of different organized communities from South-Eastern and Western Europe. It focuses on the patterns of intercultural contact and reflexive behaviours in this collective's endeavors, accentuating the complexity of relationships that arise in the course of the collaboration of the network and wider, revealing the 'agonistic' dynamics of Self and Other, West and East, unity and diversity, giver and receiver, hierarchy and equality, global and local, concentrating on new social movements and contemporary identity practices in Europe. By using an ethnographic approach, based on active participant observation, this research is an attempt to engage the participating members of the different groups in the construction of the thorough insight of the research. Findings show how distinctive conceptualizations of cultural/ethnic belonging and individual/collective performativities operate based on different socio-cultural backgrounds, questioning power relation dynamics, as well as the presence of hierarchy and neo-colonialism. In this ball of inter-sectionalities, which is specifically accentuated during the joint work for the time being of each project making, there is a possibility of the creation of a common global culture and identity based on goal-driven factors, ideology and motivation. Whereas, when found in the 'back home' working environment and back to their local usual habitats, the groups prioritize different approaches to the communal functioning depending on their socio-cultural surroundings.

**Trime Halili, PhD in Cultural Anthropology and Ethnography, University of Debrecen; MA in Cultural Anthropology, ELTE, Budapest; Ba in Political Science in South-east European University, Tetovë, North Macedonia.**

**Field of research: community making, social movement, performativity, socio-cultural identity, ethnicity and East-West dichotomy.**

## Between the global Intercultural City Ideal and the local Reality of the New Wars

Dr. Rolly Rosen  
The Department for Peace and Conflict Studies  
Haifa University

Global principles, formulated by international global organizations, always face difficulties when local activists or government agencies try to implement them on the ground. This is also the case regarding the principles of [the Intercultural Cities Network](#), which the present paper will describe.

Founded in 2008 by the Council of Europe, the network „supports cities - in developing comprehensive intercultural strategies to help them manage diversity positively“. (ICC, 2018). With 126 member cities, the network does an impressive job trying to promote global intercultural guidelines for urban policy. However, this global intercultural integration and equality discourse, emphasizing the „Diversity Advantage“ (ICC, 2017), has to function within the local context of the security and new war or ‚Clash of Civilizations‘ discourse (Huntington, 1996), emphasizing suspicion, intelligence work and ‚looking out for the enemy‘ behind every corner. So how do integration officers in the different member cities ‚juggle‘ between the two discourses? And how do these tensions influence the glocalization process of the principles?

The paper is based on a chapter from my PhD research, which was an example of ‚ethnography without borders‘ and which followed the glocalization of the Intercultural Cities Network principles in various European Cities in the years 2015-2018. The findings show the complex ways used by the Heads of Integration Departments as they struggle to find a balance between the two seemingly contradicting discourses.

## BLOCK V. 10:30 - 11:40 (Saturday) TOURISM AS AN OBJECT AND WAY OF RESEARCH

**Karolína Gibalová:** Holiday of Novruz in Azerbaijan with ethnological perspectives

10:30 - 10:50 Presentation

10:50 - 11:05 Discussion

**Gergo Berta:** Touristification and locality in gentrifying neighbourhoods

11:05 - 11:25 Presentation

10:25 - 11:40 Discussion

## Holiday of Novruz in Azerbaijan with ethnological perspectives

**Karolína Gibalová**  
student, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology  
Charles University in Prague

The aim of presentation is to analyse our practical research in Azerbaijani in 2018 and 2019 during the Holidays of Novruz with ethnological perspectives. Novruz in Azerbaijan is traditional holiday with celebrates in Persian New Year and beginning of Spring. Novruz means New Day. This is an ancient holiday, which can be tracked back 5,000 years to the Sumerians and Babylonians civilisation. The first records of Novruz as a spring holiday date back to 505 BC. Holiday of Novruz was inscribed as an element in 2009 on the Representatives List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (UNESCO). The celebration of the holiday of Novruz is associated with various customs and traditions.

## Touristification and locality in gentrifying neighbourhoods

**Gergo Berta**  
PhD candidate, Interdisciplinary Social Research Programme  
Eötvös Lóránd Tudományegyetem

Tourism became one of the biggest industries of the 21st century which was prospering before the Covid19 pandemic. A phenomenon called over-tourism changed the socio-economic structure of the cities among other things in the aspect of housing. My inquiry focuses on the problems of locals related to touristification in two European cities (Barcelona & Budapest) more specifically two certain neighbourhoods. In the middle of the 2010's years a new movement had risen in Barcelona against touristification and its accompaniment gentrification. There is an ongoing housing crisis in these cities such as many other places in Europe. Connecting the questions of housing and tourism is a relatively new phenomenon such as the movement alongside it. My aim is to introduce the housing activists who are participating in the movement, discover their goals and future perspectives. To reach this, I use the latest academic literature, and my previous research results which I conducted in Barcelona in 2019. Among other social scientific techniques, primarily I applied anthropological methods in the previous research such as the ongoing one connected to my PhD.

In my proposed presentation I would like to introduce my topic, reveal the connection between touristification and gentrification through the perspectives of residents. The anti-touristification movement gained victories in Barcelona and started to evolve in Budapest as well. The Covid19 pandemic roundly effected the tourism industry, along this, the movement against touristification too. The deeper understanding of the actors and the situation could provide valuable data from the current inequalities and social struggle of the present day's communities. How tourism will change after the pandemic? How the reopen affected anti-touristification movements? These are just some of the questions which I seek to answer by the end of the research.

## BLOCK VI. 14:45 - 15:15 (Saturday) CULTURAL HERITAGE

**Romana Macicová:** The use and appropriation of the transnational concept of “Cultural Heritage”

**14:45 - 15:00** Presentation

**15:00 - 15:15** Discussion

## The use and appropriation of the transnational concept of “Cultural Heritage”

**Romana Macicová**

**student**

**University Constantine Philosopher Nitra (Slovakia)**

From the Local to National: Transformation of the Traditional Costume in the Village of Martovce in the Context of the Activities of Ifjú Szivek Dance Theater

The paper presents the results of research focused on the transformation of traditional clothing in the context of artistic activities of the Ifjú Szivek Dance Theater. This well-known professional dance group, based in Bratislava, aims at scenic presentations of intangible cultural heritage and folklore traditions of the Hungarian minority in Slovakia. We conducted ethnographic field research in the Village of Martovce followed by an analysis of various types of source materials focusing on the local forms of traditional costumes and clothing. One of our findings suggests that the traditional costume from Martovce has been instrumentalized, not only as a symbol of local culture and its original wearers and creators, but it is also shown, how - after its specific transformation and modification into a scenic costume by Ifjú Szivek within the folklore revival movement - it crossed the border of “locality” and slowly became a manifestation of a more general ethnic, respectively national identity. The traditional costume from Martovce thus represents a „Hungarian-ness“ as well as the Hungarian minority in Slovakia within certain discourses and contexts. As a „Hungaricum,“ it is also presented outside Slovakia, and in the form of a stage costume it is the subject of continuous hybridization through a combination of its features with clothing components, trimmings and accessories from other locations together with those of the predominant Hungarian population.

**Romana Macicova, student of Univeristy Constantine Philosopher in Nitra (Slovakia). My research is oriented to traditional forms of clothing and its overlap to present. I’m interested in fashion and clothing since I remember and when I discovered traditional clothing something just clicked in me.**



Thank you for your interest and participation. We are looking forward to hosting you in Prague!



